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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/044,426	03/19/1998	J. SAM CURETON	0972-0111	8422

7590 02/26/2003

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EXAMINER

DIXON, THOMAS A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3629	

DATE MAILED: 02/26/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/044,426	CURETON ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
	Thomas A. Dixon	3629

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 May 2002.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 18 October 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1)<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2)<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3)<input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4)<input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____. 5)<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6)<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.
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DETAILED ACTION

1. The request filed on 6 May 2002 for a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) under 37 CFR 1.53(d) based on parent Application No. 09/044,426 is acceptable and a CPA has been established. An action on the CPA follows.
2. The new Declaration is acceptable.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Anderson et al (6,032,084).

As per Claim 1.

Anderson et al ('084) discloses

a feedbunk reading computer system, installed onboard a feedbunk reading vehicle transportable to each said animal pen in said feedlot, said feedbunk reading computer system including means for receiving, storing and displaying said animal health data and feed ration dispensed data, see column 8, line 63 - Column 9, line 12; a means for producing, storing and displaying feed ration delivery data, said feed ration delivery data specifying the assigned amount of feed ration to be delivered to the feedbunks associated with a plurality of animal pens along a feeding route during a specified number of feeding cycles to be executed within a predetermined time period, and said feed ration dispensed data indicating the actual amount of feed ration delivered to the feedbunks of said animal pens during each said specified feeding cycle; a plurality of feed delivery vehicles each having a computer system, each said feed delivery vehicle computer system being installed onboard each said feed delivery vehicle and transportable to each said animal pen in said feedlot and having storage means for storing an assigned feed load, and feed metering means for metering the actual amount of feed ration delivered to the feedbunks associated with said specified sequence of animal pens, and data producing means for producing said feed ration

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dispensed data indicative of the actual amount of feed ration delivered to said feedbunks, each said feed delivery vehicle computer system being operable by a feed delivery vehicle operator assigned to said feed delivery vehicle and having means for receiving, storing and displaying said feed ration delivery data provided from said feedbunk reading computer system, and means for receiving said feed ration dispensed data produced from said metering means aboard said feed delivery vehicle, see column 8, line 63 - Column 9, line 12;

a feedmill computer system, installed at a feedmill in said feedlot and having means for receiving, storing and displaying said feed ration delivery data produced from said feedbunk reading computer system, see Column 10, lines 34-39;

a feedlot management computer system, installed aboard a feedlot management vehicle, for receiving, storing and displaying said feed ration delivery data, said feed ration dispensed data and said animal health data, for use by a feedlot manager of said feedlot, see Column 10, lines 26-29;

a digital data communications system integrated with said feedlot computer network, for transferring digital data files among said feedbunk reading computer system, said feedmill computer system, said plurality of feed delivery vehicle computer systems, said feedlot management computer system and said feedmill computer system, wherein said digital data file contain said feed ration delivery data, said animal health data and said feed ration dispensed data, see Column 11, lines 1-64; and

a database for maintaining information representative of a model of said feedlot and objects contained therein, wherein each said computer system installed on-board each said plurality of feed delivery vehicles, includes a subsystem for viewing an aspect of said model maintained in said database, vehicle information acquisition means for acquiring vehicle information regarding (i) the position of said feed delivery vehicle relative to a first prespecified coordinate reference frame, and/or (ii) the state of operation of said feed delivery vehicle, and information transmission means for transmitting said vehicle information to said database to specify in the position and/or the state of operation of said feed delivery vehicle represented within said model of said feedlot, see column 12, lines 13-64.

As per Claim 2.

Anderson et al ('084) discloses all the limitations of claim 1.

Anderson et al ('084) further discloses vehicle information acquisition means comprises a satellite based global positioning system, and said database is periodically up-dated using said vehicle information obtained from said satellite-based global positioning system, see column 8, lines 53-54.

As per Claim 3.

Anderson et al ('084) discloses all the limitations of claim 2.

Anderson et al ('084) further discloses animal information acquisition means for acquiring animal information regarding the position of animals in said feedlot relative to second prespecified coordinate reference frame, or the body-temperature of said animals so that said feedlot model reflects the position or body-temperature of said

animals, see column 4, lines 42-47, column 12, line 31 – column 13, line 28 and column 15, lines 24-26.

As per Claim 4.

Anderson et al ('084) discloses all the limitations of claim 1.

Anderson et al ('084) further discloses subsystem onboard each said feed delivery vehicle comprises

a stereoscopic display subsystem which permits the driver to stereoscopically view any aspect of said model, including the driver's vehicle as it is being navigated through the feedlot during feedlot operations, see column 14, lines 40-45 and column 21, lines 4-11.

As per Claim 5.

Anderson et al ('084) discloses all the limitations of claim 4.

Anderson et al ('084) further discloses each said feed delivery vehicle is remotely controlled through the feedlot by an operator using a remotely situated workstation, see column 4, lines 15-23.

As per Claim 6.

Anderson et al ('084) discloses all the limitations of claim 5.

Anderson et al ('084) further discloses each said feed delivery vehicle is equipped with stereoscopic vision subsystem having a field of view along the navigational course of said feedlot vehicle, see column 3, lines 35-41.

As per Claim 7.

Anderson et al ('084) discloses all the limitations of claim 6.

Anderson et al ('084) further discloses said database is maintained aboard an Internet server operably associated with an Internet-based digital communications network, with which each said subsystem is in communication, see column 4, lines 34-41.

As per Claim 8.

Anderson et al ('084) discloses all the limitations of claim 6.

Anderson et al ('084) further discloses a replica of said database is maintained aboard each said feedlot vehicle, see column 4, lines 23-33, column 10, line 47 – Column 11, line 27.

As per Claim 9.

Anderson et al ('084) discloses all the limitations of claim 3.

Anderson et al ('084) further discloses subsystem can be used to ascertain both vehicle and animal information reflected in said model of the feedlot, see column 12, lines 31-52, and column 15, lines 20-28.

As per Claim 10.

Anderson et al ('084) discloses all the limitations of claim 1.

Anderson et al ('084) further discloses at least one workstation for viewing said model of said feedlot during feedlot operations, see column 15, lines 20-28.

As per Claim 11.

Anderson et al ('084) discloses all the limitations of claim 1.

Anderson et al ('084) further discloses at least one workstation for viewing said model of a feedlot vehicle in said feedlot and remotely navigating said feed-lot vehicle along a course in said feedlot, see column 4, lines 15-23.

As per Claim 12.

Anderson et al ('084) discloses

a plurality of feedlot vehicles, each employing an on-board computer system, see column 3, lines 35-41 which includes:

a feedlot computer network comprised of a feedbunk reading computer system, see column 4, lines 5-14, a means for producing, storing and displaying feed ration delivery data, see column 3, lines 42-47, a feedmill computer system, see column 8, lines 7-27, a feedlot management computer system, a digital data communications system integrated with said feedlot computer network, see column 4, lines 23-41,

a feedlot modelling subsystem for maintaining a geometrical database containing a geometrical model of the feedlot and objects contained therein, see figures 2B4 and 2B5,

a coordinate acquisition subsystem for acquiring coordinate information specifying the position of the feedlot vehicle relative to a coordinate reference system symbolically embedded within the feedlot, see column 12, lines 31-52, and

geometrical database processor for processing information in said geometrical database using said coordinate information in order to update said geometrical model, see column 12, lines 52-64 and column 30-45.

As per Claim 13.

Anderson et al ('084) discloses

(a) providing a feedlot computer network comprised of a feedbunk reading computer system, a means for producing, storing and displaying feed ration delivery data, a feedmill computer system, a feedlot management computer system, a digital data communications system integrated with said feedlot computer network, see column 8, lines 63 – column 9 line 12, column 10, lines 26-39, and column 11, lines 1-64;

(b) providing a feedlot vehicle with an on-board computer system in communication with said feedlot computer network, said on-board computer system using real-time VR modelling and coordinate acquisition techniques in order to maintain a 3-D geometrical model of said feedlot and objects therein including said feedlot vehicle, see column 3, lines 35-47; and

(c) navigating said feedlot vehicle while viewing an aspect of said feedlot model from within said feedlot vehicle, see column 3, lines 35-47.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas A. Dixon whose telephone number is (703) 305-4645. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 6:30 - 4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on (703) 308-2702. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-7687 for regular communications and (703) 305-7687 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.



Thomas A. Dixon
Examiner
Art Unit 3629

February 14, 2003